

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication system for advising an intended called party recipient of the availability of ~~the~~ a calling party sender for return messages, said system comprising:

A) a data terminal associated with each of said calling and called parties,
a message routing module for interconnecting said calling and called parties; and
a presence processor connected to said data terminal of said calling and called parties and obtaining from a calling party descriptive information ~~as to the~~ and availability status information of a said calling party,

said message routing module communicating with said presence processor in response to said calling party not completing a call to said called party and said presence processor in response thereto forwarding to the data terminal of said called party said descriptive information and said availability status information ~~with respect to~~ of said calling party.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said presence processor includes circuitry for communicating with said data terminals and said ~~call~~ message routing module, a datastore for storing status information, and status processor.

Claim 3 (original): The communication system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said communication system is a telephone system.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The communication system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said ~~call~~ message routing module is a call agent.

Claim 5 (original): The communication system in accordance with claim 4, wherein communications between said call agent, said presence processor, and said calling and called parties, including said data terminals, are through a packet-based communication network.

Claim 6 (original): The communication system in accordance with claim 5, further including a residential gateway between each of said calling and called parties and said packet-based communication network.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The communication system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said ~~call~~ message routing module is a telephone switch and said presence processor is a service control point.

Claim 8 (original): The communication system in accordance with claim 6, further including a packet based network connecting said service control point to said data terminals of said calling and called parties.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said data terminal includes a scheduling calendar, said presence processor obtaining said availability status information ~~for~~ from said scheduling calendar.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said availability status information indicates the calling party's availability for return communication from the called party.

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Claim 11 (currently amended): The communication system in accordance with claim 1,
wherein said presence processor is operative to dynamically update said availability status
information.
